

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 4, 10, 11, 15-17, and 20-26, and amend Claim 1, 5, 7-9, 12, 14, 18 and 27 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An image reading apparatus ~~wherein it comprises~~ comprising:

conveying means for conveying an original;

reading means for optically reading the information recorded in the conveyed original at a ~~predetermined~~ reading location;

original pressing means having a surface opposed to said reading means for pressing the original to said reading means; and

a color reference member used as a color reference at the time when said information is read by said reading means,

wherein said color reference member is arranged between said reading means and said original pressing means, and said

~~the pressing location of the original to said reading means by said~~ original pressing means is inclined and disposed at a location within the conveying region of the original and other than said reading location such that an upstream end portion or a downstream end portion of said opposed surface is in contact with said reading means respectfully at an upstream side or a downstream side of said reading location, and the opposite end portion of said opposed surface is separated from said reading means by a predetermined distance.

2. (Cancelled)

3.

(Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said color reference member is disposed on said original pressing means.

4.

(Cancelled)

3.

(Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim-4 1 further comprising a contacting portion and a regulating portion, wherein said original pressing means is positioned by disposing said, ~~by making a contacting portion disposed in the original conveying direction at a downstream side of said original pressing means and in contact with the regulating portion disposed in the image reading apparatus side, said original pressing means is positioned.~~

4.

(Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim³, wherein said regulating portion is a portion configured in a planar form, and said regulating portion is configured by the surface of the original conveying direction downstream side of a bent portion bent in the opposite direction against said reading means in the original conveying direction downstream side of said original pressing means.

3.

(Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim⁴, wherein the reading surface of said reading means is disposed inclined with the original conveying direction upstream side-up, and the image reading apparatus is configured in such manner that said regulating-surface portion contacts said contacting portion by the dead load of said original pressing means.

6.
8. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said bent portion is bent approximately vertically, and

said regulating ~~surface portion~~ is set so as to make an acute angle with the reading surface of said reading means.

7.
9. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 4 1, ~~wherein it has an~~ further comprising compressing means for compressing said original pressing means to said reading means.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

8.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein comprising:

conveying means for conveying an original;

reading means for optically reading the information recorded in the conveyed original at a reading location;

original pressing means for pressing the original to said reading means; and

a color reference member used as a color reference at the time when said information is read by said reading means, wherein said color reference member is arranged between said reading means and said original pressing means, and wherein said reading a pressing location of said original pressing means is disposed only at the original conveying direction a downstream side of said reading location and at the original conveying direction and at an upstream side of said reading location.

9. 8
13. (Original) The original reading apparatus according to claim 12,

wherein the shape of said original pressing means in said reading location is in the shape recessed from said pressing location.

10.
9 14. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 13, ~~wherein it has an~~ further comprising compressing means for compressing said original pressing means to said reading means.

15. - 17. (Cancelled)

20. 11.
5 18. (Currently Amended) The image reading apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the reading surface of said reading means is disposed inclined with the original conveying direction upstream side ~~up~~ and

the image reading apparatus is configured in such manner that said regulating ~~surface~~ portion contacts said contacting portion by the dead load of said original pressing means.

12. 11
19. (Original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said original pressing means is movably engaged with the image reading apparatus via said color reference member disposed in said opposed surface.

20. - 26. (Cancelled)

13.
27. (Currently Amended) ~~The image reading apparatus, wherein it~~
comprises:

an An image reading apparatus according to any one of ~~claim 1~~ to
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
claim 26 claims 1, 3, 5-9, 12-14, 18, and 19, and further comprising;

sheet conveying means for conveying sheets; and

image forming means for forming an image on the ~~sheet~~ conveyed

sheets.